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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

KIMURA, Y. et al.

Atty. Ref.: 427-89

Serial No. 10/810,847

TC/A.U.: 1725

Filed: March 29, 2004

Examiner:

For: WELDING SHIELD GAS AND WELDING METHOD

* * * * *

August 11, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attention is invited to the attached copy of a European Search Report mailed July 22, 2004 with respect to this disclosure and a copy of each document cited in it. A completed Form PTO-1449 is also attached.

Official citation and consideration of all the attached documents is requested. Please return to the undersigned a copy of the attached PTO-1449 with the examiner's initials in the left column [MPEP §609] with the next communication.

For purposes of adjustment of patent term, each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in Section 1.56(c) more than 30 days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained herein was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months from the filing date of this statement [see 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (1)].

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or

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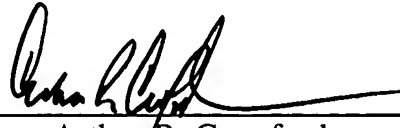
is considered to be, material to patentability [37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g) & (h)] or that no other material information exists.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 14-1140 for any fees required in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
CITATION

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

SERIAL NO.

427-89

10/810,847

APPLICANT

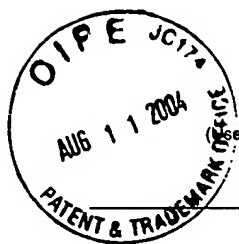
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FILING DATE

TC/A.U.

March 29, 2004

1725



(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,111,219	8/2000	Macedo et al			
	3,770,932	11/1973	Cotter et al			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
7-299586	11/1995	Japan			ABST.

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)

	Lambert, "Cast-to-Cast Variability in Stainless Steel Mechanized GTA Welds", Welding Journal, American Welding Society, Vol. 70, No. 5, 1 May 1991, pages 41-52; XP000205593.
	Du Toit et al, "Nitrogen Control During Autogenous Arc Welding of Stainless Steel – Part 1: Experimental Observations", Welding Journal, American Welding Society, Vol. 82, No. 8, August 2003, pages 219-S; XP001177375.

*Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.